

G3ZME  
G6ZME

# News Letter

# TDARS

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

[www.TDARS.org.uk](http://www.TDARS.org.uk)

FOUNDED 1969

[www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk](http://www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk)

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## Programme

[www.telfordhamfest.co.uk](http://www.telfordhamfest.co.uk)

- October 12     *Three-in-One talk by Richard G0VXG. Topics: Spark Gap TXs, History of CW (spark), Web-server in a matchbox.*
- October 15-16 (w/e)** *Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). Wrekin Scout Camp. M0JZH, G7LMF*
- October 19     *Winter Projects #1 —bring your ideas/wish list along*
- October 26     *Hallowe'en Social—Soup and a roll. Paul M0PLA Chef in Charge!*
- November 2     *Committee Meeting + GX3ZME on the Air*
- November 9     *Surplus Equipment Sale—M0KZB with the gavel*
- November 16     *SWRs and Return Loss—what's the difference? Make a widget that converts one to the other! Bring along an old, useless CD/DVD. G3UKV*
- November 23     *Ten Minute Talks (or even 2 minute talks...) Members I/P*
- November 30     *Making Professional PCBs—Brian G6UDX*
- December 7     *First-in-the-Month Committee meeting and GX3ZME on the air*
- December 14     *Christmas Meal. Venue The Woolpack, Shawburch (TF2 0LW).  
7:30 for 8pm meal. 2 course £9.50, 3 course £12. Book NOW with G0UFE*
- December 21     *Guest speaker—Neil Simmonds 'Homebrew Construction Techniques' incl. dead-bug, Manhattan style, acid etch, CNC engraved PCB etc*
- December 28     *Informal meeting—GX3ZME On the Air.*
- January 4 (2017) *First-in-the-Month Committee meeting and GX3ZME on the air*
- January 11     *Winter Projects #2 Update.*
- For Amateur Radio Exam Training—enquiries to Mike G3JKX (01952 299677)*  
*For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.*  
*For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Don M0TBQ.*  
[Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html](http://www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html)



# Qtc: News & Information



**TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE ON THE FRONT PAGE PROGRAMME. ROOM BOOKED FROM 7PM - 10PM. MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM**

**Please note: A current membership card must be shown to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .**

A special **welcome to THE HAMSTERS**—an enthusiastic group of youngsters who have joined TDARS, thanks to a chance meeting at our Telford HamFest early in September at Enginuity. These 8-11 year olds happened to be perusing the Shropshire LINUX Group stand (SLUG), and were met by several club members, including Eric 'KZB and Dave 'CER. They expressed an interest in soldering and electronic construction.

Subsequently one of their parents, Julie, agreed to bring the group along to a Wednesday club meeting. To make sure they felt comfortable and welcome, it was decided to start their session at 7pm, and for it to last just 45 minutes, with other members remaining outside until they had finished.

Eight youngsters turned up with some parents, and had a go at soldering and other basic construction skills. As this was new territory for both them and us, Eric arranged for just 2 soldering 'stations' - we didn't want any burnt fingers (or worse) at this first session. It was a huge success, and 6 of them returned the following week to continue the project. Several club members generously arrived early and assisted at the sessions, so that the Hamsters had close support and supervision. From the club's point of view, we now need to extend the range of involvement and establish a regular pattern of development, but probably not on a weekly basis—also perhaps restricted to school term times.



Another very successful event that took place during the summer was the **ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) evening** early in August. Bob Titterington G3ORY came across from Lutterworth to explain the basics of national 80 metre DF'ing. He brought all the kit required, and had an explanatory session in the club car park, before members, plus a group from the Staffordshire Radio Club, moved across to the Village Field, where Bob had set up a total of five hidden 80m beacons around the perimeter. Everyone located the 5 beacons that transmitted morse in sequence, and completed the exercise by 8:45 pm before darkness fell. The winners were Joe 2E0EVB/Gary M0GWP, and in second place was Martin 2E0TRO. Their times were 16 minutes 15 seconds and 18 minutes respectively. Others taking part included Malcolm 2E0DYL, Brian G0HCT, John G4YDT, John M0JZH, Simon G0UFE, Don M0TBQ, Brian G6UDX, Tony M1FIQ, Chris M6KIX, Steve 2E0HHK, Tony G4RSW, Nick G4KQK, Lance G6PVT, Paul M0VTS, Richy M0RKY, Sarah M6TZE, John G8JJF, Paul G8AQA and Heather M0HMO.

Briefing by G3ORY



[Photos by Peter M0VTS]



It's in there somewhere—  
Malcolm 2E0DYL





Winners' Trophy presented by Eric M0KZB  
(note: runner-up Martin 'TRO in background)



And the de-brief after nightfall . . .

The **GB3TF Fusion project** has made a further two small steps towards having it linked via the Internet. A BT Broadband (fibre optic) Internet link has finally been made at LWVH, which includes a Wi-Fi router for general usage by all Village Hall users (see also below). The on-going cost is currently shared equally between TDARS and the Little Wenlock Village Hall Committee, since we envisage it will be used every day once 'TF is linked to the Internet via 'Wires-X'. A second step is the generous donation by Robin G1MHU of a low-consumption, fast desktop PC which is required to operate the link between our Repeater and the Internet, through the Wires-X box. As stated months ago, this is not a 'plug-and-play' project, and it will take some time before the system is fully up and running. Even Sam Ruddy, the Fusion guy at Yaesu UK Ltd was rather vague about the details when we met him at the National Hamfest ! So please be patient.

All members should now be able to access **super-fast Broadband** at the club premises on a suitable laptop, tablet or smart phone. The password is **LWVH12345**, and should you forget it, it's written on the Village Hall entrance noticeboard on the L/H side as you come in! Have you tried it yet ?

The club has finally **sold its Icom 756** HF/6m Transceiver via e-bay. The replacement Icom 7600 is now the flagship HF and 6 metre rig of choice for club members' use. Remember, there is also the **Yaesu FT817** (QRP) rig available for borrowing at any time—ideal for portable or SOTA use. Just have a word with Don M0TBQ if you wish to use this equipment, or indeed borrow any of the numerous test equipment or library books available for loan. Please bring your Membership Card when you wish to borrow items as proof of current TDARS membership.

Just after the last Newsletter went to press, the RSGB Contest Committee announced the **results of VHF NFD**, and, surprise, surprise, we came first in the Mix & Match section, winning the G5BY Trophy. Well done all concerned—this was NOT expected ! 2 Metres did exceptionally well—coming 1st of 19 entries, whilst on both 70 and 23cms we came second, and even on 6 metres (where we lost the last 2.5hrs due to rotator swapping) we came 8th. The Trophy was presented at the RSGB Convention just gone.

For those Members who find the LF bands (160, 80, 40m) very noisy in their locality, it might be worth checking out the **Hack Green SDR** (or other similar) website, where there is a SDR receiver available to monitor signals across the bands. Several members have used this site to enable them to join in the 80m nets (Monday, Friday mornings) on 3657 KHz. Try [www.websdr.org](http://www.websdr.org), where Hack Green is the second sdr website listed. Use HTML5 rather than Java if possible on your computer to receive the audio.

**TDARS logo shirts, hats, polo-shirts, jumpers, jackets** and more in a range of sizes, complete with your name/callsign embroidered are now available to order. Just speak to Paul M0PLA for more details. A popular choice is the double sided jacket, embroidered inside and out, which is waterproof one way round, and fleece lined on the reverse. Cost under £30 !



Photo left: TDARS members receive trophy from Nick G3RMF, RSGB President at the Convention (9/10/2016)

Photo right: TDARS members show Club of the Year 3rd place certificate at Newark National Convention event (30/09/2016)  
Photos by M6JAX, G3UKV)



## Resonant Frequency

**Mike G3JKX**

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**Don't be as DAFT as ME !**

73 Don S M0FHM





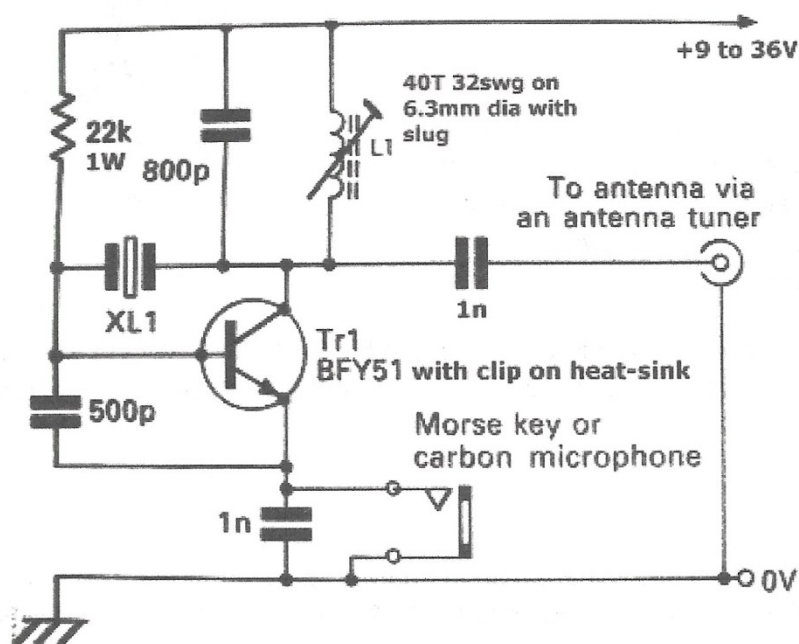
## Sibrwd y Ddraig

### The Dragon's Whisper A Simple 160m AM/CW QRP (low power) Transmitter Simon Taylor 2W0CHV

After a few years languishing at the intermediate licence level, I have finally decided to study for the Advanced licence with the Bath Distance Learning Course. I would recommend this course of study and I am sure that the Training Officer at your club would be able to give you more details about this. Not only have I renewed my interest in study, but I have started to tinker with very simple home construction.

First of all, I have finally finished a simple Dummy Load, which I started a few years ago whilst a member of the Telford DARS, under the expert guidance of Simon G0UFE (User Friendly Electrician). I then started to look around for a simple transmitter which was capable of low power AM or CW for across town communications. I have found what I believe to be a suitable circuit designed by Eric Elsey G3YUQ and published in the Winter 1975 issue of SPRAT (the journal of the GQRP Club).

This circuit **Fig.1** is for a very simple single transistor circuit capable of around 250mW AM and 750mW CW using a 12 volt supply. **Fig.1 :-**



#### Components

This circuit can be built any way you like, but I aim to use simple circuit strip board. Both the strip board and various capacitors and resistor are readily available from all the usual electronics outlets, ask at your club and I am sure someone shall advise you.

The L-C uses a 800pF capacitor in parallel with an old iron dust cored tuned inductor quarter inch diameter with 40 turns of 24swg enamelled wire. Such coil formers and tuned slugs are practically unobtainable these days [I have a few—Ed], so I suggest using a toroid, big enough to take plenty of turns. I am trying a T200-2 toroid, which are readily available for around £5, and you will have to experiment with the amount of turns required.

Crystals for top-band, also known as 160m are quite hard to find, however the QRP calling frequency of 1836 KHz and also 1843.2 KHz crystals are readily available via the GQRP Club website (<http://www.gqrp.com/index.htm>).

